

binding site of said enzyme are not replace; wherein the modified enzyme exhibits increased NAD(H) affinity compared to an unmodified enzyme.

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending in the present application.

Support for the amendment of Claim 1 and the specification can be found at page 8, lines 18-20. No new matter is believed to have been entered by this amendment.

Applicants further submit that this application is now in condition for examination on the merits and an early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 17 with the following text:

Accordingly, one object of the present invention is a modified enzyme wherein at least one [acidic] neutral amino acid is replaced with at least one [neutral] acidic amino acid and wherein the basic amino acids at the coenzyme binding site of said enzyme are not replace; wherein the modified enzyme exhibits increased NAD(H) affinity compared to an unmodified enzyme.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A modified enzyme wherein at least one [acidic] neutral amino acid is replaced with at least one [neutral] acidic amino acid and wherein the basic amino acids at the coenzyme binding site of said enzyme are not replace; wherein the modified enzyme exhibits increased NAD(H) affinity compared to an unmodified enzyme.